

Comments from Bonnie B. Matheson. Received 7/30/2006, 5:39pm.

I hope you will consider reimbursing people whom you insure when they use a Birthing Center instead of a hospital. After all many women feel strongly that the safest way to have a baby is as far away from a hospital as possible.

If someone will look into it they will discover that it is cost effective to have women going to a non-hospital environment to birth their babies with Midwives in attendance.

Only high risk mothers should need an O.B. or a hospital. In fact home is probably the safest place to have a baby. In Great Britain women are being encouraged to stay home and give birth because they will have fewer problems there.

Women should be rewarded for using Non-Nurse Midwives as well. Certified Professional Midwives believe in and use the Midwives Model of Care. This is non-invasive and tends to produce fewer side effects and complications down the road.

Doulas should also be reimbursable. Doulas make births go a lot more smoothly for mother and baby. They greatly reduce the number of C-sections and even of pain medication. The doula is a real money saver for the state. The state ought to encourage their use and pay women back for most or all of their cost.

Please take these things seriously. Birth is changing both for the better (Midwives and home birth or Birth Center birth) and for the worse (huge numbers of unnecessary C-sections which are expensive and cause more problems later).

Support those who are trying their hardest to let women have a good safe natural experience with fewer interventions and way less cost.

Best regards,

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